

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 27, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 59 and 66-82 are amended, and claims 60-65 and 83-91 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 65-66 and 85 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, claims 59 and 80 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 65 and 85 respectively. Thus, claims 59 and 80 and their independent claims are in condition for allowance. Claims 59 and 66-82 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action objected to claim 64 because of typographical informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 64 is amended to properly recite each of the features recited in this claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 64 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to claims 59-76 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. The rejection of claims 60-65 is moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 59, 63, 68, 72 and 73 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the features recited in these claims. Further, claims 59, 70 and 74-76 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the

subject matter of the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 59-74, 76 and 78-91 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,259,691 to Naudus (Naudus). Applicant respectfully submits that Naudus fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims. The rejection of claims 60-65 and 83-91 is moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

As stated above, claim 59 from which claims 66-79 depend, and claim 80 from which claims 81-82 depend are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 65 and 85, which, as indicated in the Office Action, recite allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 59 and 66-74, 76 and 78-82 are allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 75 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Naudus.

Applicant respectfully submits that because claims 75 and 77 depend from claim 59, claims 75 and 77 are allowable at least for the same reasons discussed above regarding claim 59, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to claims 65, 66 and 85 for being dependent from a rejected base claim. As discussed above, claim 59 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 65, claim 66 is amended to depend from claim 59, and claim 80 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 85. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 65, 66 and 85 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that based on the above, each of claims 59 and 66-82 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 59 and 66-82 be allowed and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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